

Wuthering Heights

Vocabulary List

Below is a list of unfamiliar words that can be found in the story. Use the definitions to explain to children what these words mean. For an extra activity, you can use these words in a spelling test.

Yorkshire moors	An open area of hills that is covered with rough grass and is prone to dangerous weather conditions
tenant	A person who pays rent to stay in or use a building
landlord	A person that owns a building or an area of land and is paid by other people for the use of it
Wuthering Heights	A dark and cold farmhouse, located high up on a hill in the British Yorkshire moors
Thrushcross Grange	The inviting and well-kept home of the Linton family
drawing room	A comfortable room in a large house used for relaxing or entertaining guests
lichen	A dull plant-like organism that grows on rocks, walls, and trees

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Plot Sequencing

1. Mr Earnshaw brings home a boy called Heathcliff and everyone dislikes him.
2. Cathy spends time with the Lintons and returns home more ladylike.
3. Mr Earnshaw dies and Hindley returns home with his new wife, Francis.
4. Baby Hareton is born and Frances dies in childbirth.
5. Cathy marries Edgar Linton and Heathcliff runs away.
6. Heathcliff returns three years later as a gentleman.
7. Baby Catherine is born and Cathy dies in childbirth. Heathcliff is heartbroken.
8. Heathcliff plots revenge on Hindley for treating him so badly.
9. Heathcliff marries Isabella Linton to spite Edgar.
10. Baby Linton is born and Isabella dies in childbirth.
11. Heathcliff forces his ill son Linton and Edgar's son Catherine to marry.
12. Edgar dies and Heathcliff's son Linton inherits Thrushcross Grange.
13. Linton dies and Catherine marries Hareton and teaches him to read.
14. Heathcliff dies and his ghost reunites with Cathy's on the Yorkshire Moors.

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Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

Q1: Who narrates the story?	
Answer:	Lockwood; Heathcliff's new tenant Nelly; housekeeper
Q2: How is the setting of Wuthering Heights described?	
Answer:	The farmhouse is described to be "strongly built" with "carvings of strange creatures" and feels rough and isolated.
Q3: What is your first impression of Heathcliff?	
Answer:	Heathcliff comes across as rude and unwelcoming.
Q4: Find an example of personification used to describe the weather. Explain the effect this has.	
Answer:	"the wind howled and the windows rattled" This creates a spooky atmosphere for when Cathy's ghost appears.
Q5: How long has Cathy's ghost been haunting Wuthering Heights?	
Answer:	20 years
Q6: How does the narrator's opinion of Heathcliff change from when he first meets him to after his first night?	
Answer:	At first, Lockwood doesn't like Heathcliff because he is rude and unwelcoming, but later he feels sadness for him.
Q7: Compare and contrast the descriptions of Thrushcross Grange and Wuthering Heights.	
Answer:	Wuthering Heights is described as "dark and gloomy" whereas Thrushcross Grange has "pink sandstone" and is "warm". The darkness of Wuthering Heights makes it feel cold and unwelcoming in contrast to the brightness of Thrushcross Grange which is more welcoming.

Q8: Who is young Heathcliff and where did Mr Earnshaw find him?	
Answer:	Heathcliff is a little homeless boy that Mr Earnshaw found in Liverpool.
Q9: What is Hindley's wife's name, and what makes them return home?	
Answer:	Francis; they return because Mr Earnshaw dies.
Q10: Why did everyone dislike young Heathcliff?	
Answer:	He had rough manners and they didn't think he was good enough to be with Cathy.
Q11: What is different about Cathy when she returns from Thrushcross Grange?	
Answer:	She is more ladylike and not a childish little girl anymore.
Q12: How does Cathy's opinion of Heathcliff also change when she returns?	
Answer:	She thinks Heathcliff is filthy and finds herself comparing him to Edgar Linton.
Q13: How does this make Heathcliff feel and what does he do?	
Answer:	He feels angry that he is being laughed at and asks Nelly to help him be more like Edgar.
Q14: Why does Hindley become a bad-tempered drunk?	
Answer:	His wife, Francis, dies in childbirth and he never gets over the loss.
Q15: Why does Cathy agree to marry Edgar?	
Answer:	Edgar is handsome and rich whereas if she marries Heathcliff nobody would respect her and they would become beggars.
Q16: What could the violent storm symbolise?	
Answer:	Bronte uses pathetic fallacy to depict a violent storm and thunder that reflects Heathcliff's anger after he heard Cathy tell Nelly the reason she would rather marry Edgar Linton than him.
Q17: What is different about Heathcliff when he turns three years later?	
Answer:	He returns well-dressed and more of a gentleman.
Q18: How does Heathcliff plan his revenge on Hindley?	
Answer:	Heathcliff takes advantage of Hindley's addiction to gambling and Hindley loses Wuthering Heights and all his money in a bet.
Q19: Find where Nelly uses animalistic imagery to describe Heathcliff and explain its effect.	
Answer:	Nelly says Heathcliff "howled like an animal in pain". This wolf-like animalistic imagery emphasises the extent of Heathcliff's grief and the volume of his cries.
Q20: What do Cathy and Heathcliff's ghosts behave like?	
Answer:	It is believed that their ghosts roam around the moors, just like when Cathy and Heathcliff were children.



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Diary Writing

Wuthering Heights is dual-narrated by Lockwood and Nelly. In this activity, pupils are encouraged to think about Heathcliff's thoughts and feelings in their writing.

Choose a scene in Wuthering Heights from the list below and ask your class to write it from Heathcliff's point of view.

- Heathcliff arriving at Wuthering Heights as a young boy
- Heathcliff overhears Cathy telling Nelly why she'd rather marry Edgar Linton
- Heathcliff returns to Wuthering Heights as a gentleman
- Heathcliff bursts into Lockwood's room and begs for Cathy's ghost to come back

The following checklist can be used as guidance or assessment for this activity:

- Written in first person
- Recalls the events of the story/scene
- Includes personal feelings/emotions
- Adopts the tone of the character